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Future of CIA

The future of the Central Intelligence Agency hinges on decisions now being made at the highest level of government—the White House.

CIA, which had its origin in the World War 2 Office of Strategic Services, is the nation's top intelligence evaluation vandicoperations organization. It has operated under conditions of extraordinary secrecy for two decades, and this very secrecy has now become its Achilles heel.

CIA's difficulties stem from the failure of the revolutionary invasion of Cuba. The agency has been widely charged with providing wrong intelligence estimates on a Cuban uprising to President Kennedy.

CIA officials say privately that the agency's record, if it could be made public, would give the lie to implied charges of inefficiency, and bad judgment. They have been telling this to select members of the Washington press corps and to senators and congressmen who will listen.

However, the report is that they are fighting a losing battle. They expect some form of supervision from Capitol Hill, and their real effort now is to hold it to a minimum so that some of the country's most important intelligence projects do not become matters of gossip in congressional corridors.